

RICE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Did you know that what happens in your yard has a big impact on the health of our waterways? Caring for Minnesota lakes and streams starts at home and the RCWD needs your help to protect these precious resources for future generations.

PROTECTING RCWD'S LAKES AND STREAMS STARTS AT HOME



To fertilize or not to fertilize, that is the question. Find out how much fertilizer your yard needs and when to apply it by having your soil tested. You will save money and keep excess fertilizer from washing into the nearest waterway. Fertilize in late summer through early fall, and never before the ground is completely thawed. Most lawns do not require more than 2-3 fertilizer applications per year.



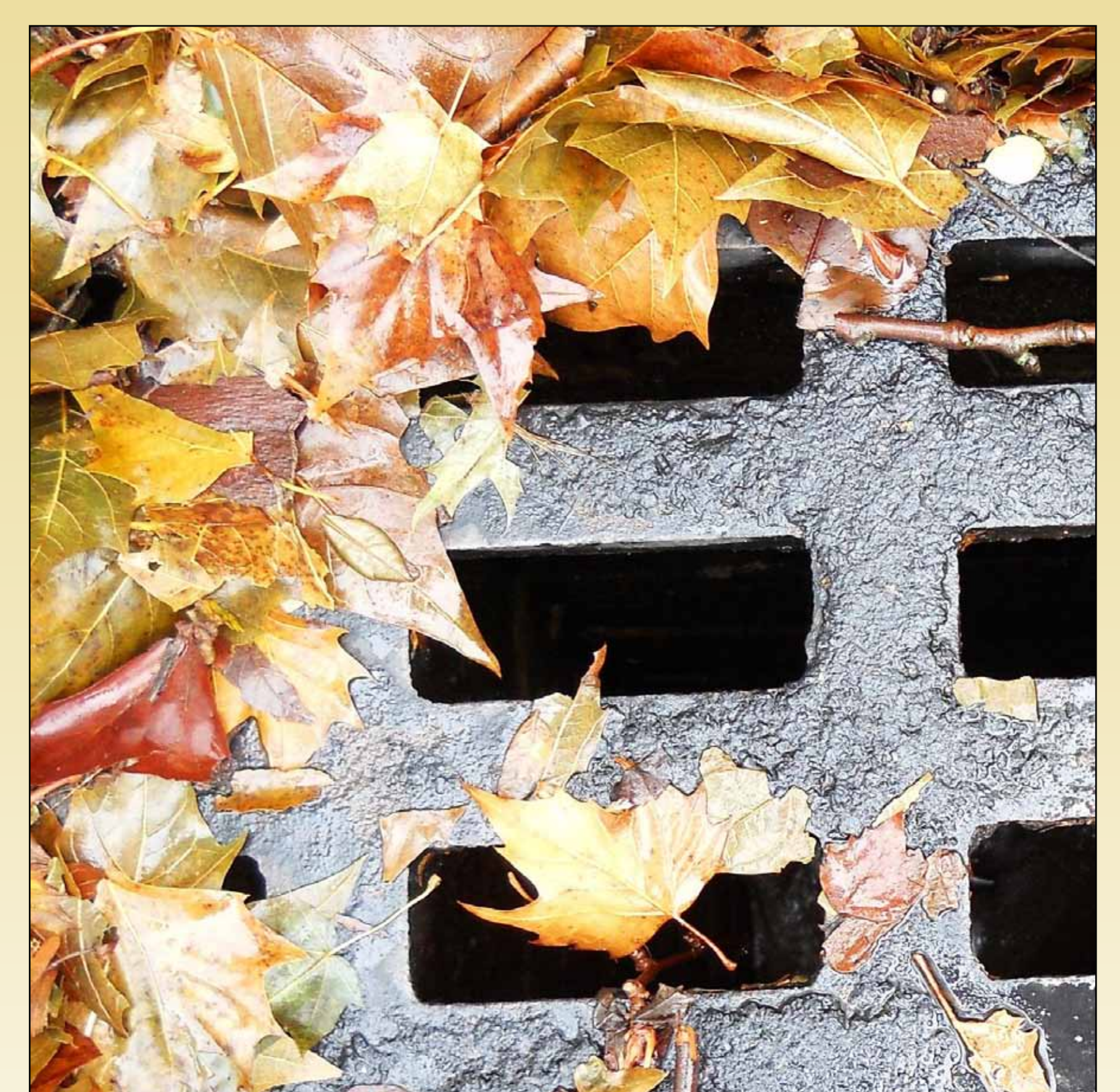
Be water wise. Native plants are more tolerant of Minnesota weather and therefore need less water and overall attention. Whenever possible, water in the morning when temperatures are cool, and apply water as close to the ground as possible.

15°F and below, salt must go.

The more snow and ice you remove, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it will be in keeping your driveways and sidewalks safe. Most salts stop working at 15°F. Use sand instead for traction, but remember that sand does not melt ice.

Mow less for a greener, healthier yard. Grass that is 3 inches long or more is able to absorb more sunshine making it greener and more lush to play or lounge on during warm months. And the healthier your lawn, the less likely you are to have weeds.

Don't leave leaves behind. Always bag or compost leaves to ensure they are not washing into nearby lakes and streams. This will help prevent algae blooms caused by too many nutrients (from decomposing leaves) in our waterways.



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